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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-02 USIE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 ACDA-10 /052 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:JALINEHAN/AF/S:RJDOLS:MR
APPROVED BY AF/P:JALINEHAN
S/PRS:JTRAKNER
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O R 021935Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
INFO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS STATE 074134

PASS CONSULS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, SF, US

SUBJECT:LAIRD PRESS STATEMENTS ON US-SOUTH AFRICAN ARMS
EMBARGO

REF: PRETORIA 1114 (NOTAL)
CAPE TOWN 373 (NOTAL)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

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1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR PRESS SPOKES-
MAN APRIL 2. NO RPT NO QUESTIONS ASKED AT NOON BRIEFING.

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GUIDANCE WILL HOWEVER BE USED IN RESPONDING TO INDIVIDUAL QUERIES FROM NEWSMEN.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON YESTERDAY'S STATEMENT BY MELVIN LAIRD THAT THE U.S. IS REEXAMINING ITS ARMS POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA?

A:MR. LAIRD IS A PRIVATE CITIZEN AND CONSULTANT FOR READER'S DIGEST WHO DOES NOT SPEAK IN ANY WAY FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

Q: WHAT IS OUR ARMS POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA?

A: IN 1962 THE U.S. DECLARED A UNILATERAL EMBARGO ON THE SALE OF SOUTH AFRICA OF ARMS WHICH MIGHT BE USED FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF APARTHEID. IN 1963 WE JOINED IN A COMPREHENSIVE EMBARGO ON THE SALE OF ALL ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN TO CONTRIBUTE TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE RACIAL PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND TO AVOID ANY STEPS WHICH MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL FRICTION IN THE AREA.

Q: IS THE U.S., IN FACT, REVIEWING ITS POLICY?

A: THERE IS NO REVIEW OF THIS POLICY.

Q; WHAT IS THE USG VIEW OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ATTEMPTS AT DETENTE WITH BLACK AFRICA?

A: OUR POLICY HAS BEEN TO ENCOURAGE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. REFTELS BEING REPEATED. KISSINGER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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To: CAPE TOWN PRETORIA
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